

Amendments to the Claims:

A listing of the entire set of pending claims (including amendments to the claims, if any) is submitted herewith per 37 CFR 1.121. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for identifying one or more mean items for a plurality of items, J, each of said-the items having at-least-one-symbolic-attribute, each-of-said-symbolic-attributes-having-at-least-one-possible-a symbolic value of a symbolic attribute, said-the method comprising-the-steps-of:

computing a variance for-of the symbolic values of the plurality of items relative to the symbolic value of each of said-the items; and

selecting at least one mean item that has the symbolic value that minimizes said-the variance-as-the-mean-symbolic-value.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, including-further-comprising-the-step of assigning a label to said-the plurality of items using at-least-one-symbolic-the symbolic value from-said-of the selected mean item.

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said-the plurality of items are a cluster including of similar items.

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said-the items are programs.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said-the items are content.

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said-the items are products.

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said-step-of computing the a variance-is-performed-as-folows includes:

determining $\text{Var}(J) = \sum_{i \in J} (x_i - \bar{x}_J)^2$ for each item, \bar{x}_J

where J is a cluster of items from-the-same-of a class, x_i is the symbolic value of each-an item, i , and \bar{x}_J is the symbolic value of each item, J , and

selecting the at least one mean item that provides a minimum value of the item(s) in said plurality of items, J , such that it minimizes said $\text{Var}(J)$.

9. (Currently amended) A method for characterizing a plurality of items, J , each of said-the items having at least one symbolic attribute, each-of-said-symbolic-attributes having at-least-one-possible-a symbolic value, said-the method comprising-the-steps of:

computing a variance of the symbolic values of the plurality of items relative to the symbolic value of for-each of said-the items; and

characterizing said plurality-of-items, J , with at least one mean item by selecting the symbolic value of at least one item that minimizes said-the variance as the-a mean symbolic value that characterizes the symbolic attribute of the plurality of items.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 9, further comprising-the-step-of assigning a label to said-the plurality of items using at-least-one-symbolic-the symbolic value from-said-of one of the at least one mean-items that minimize the variance.

12. (Currently amended) The method of claim 9, wherein said-the plurality of items are a cluster including-of similar items.

13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 9, wherein said-step-of-computing a variance is performed as follows includes:

determining $\text{Var}(J) = \sum_{i \in J} (x_i - \bar{x}_J)^2$ for each item, μ ,

where J is a cluster of items from the same of a class, x_i is the symbolic value of each an-item, i , and \bar{x}_J is the symbolic value of each item, μ , and

selecting the value x_{μ} of at least one item that provides a minimum value of item(s)-in-said-plurality-of-items, J , such that it minimizes said- $\text{Var}(J)$.

14. (Currently amended) A system for identifying one or more mean items for a plurality of items, J , each of said-the items having at least one symbolic attribute, each of said-symbolic-attributes having at least one possible-a symbolic value, said the system comprising:

a memory for storing computer readable code; and

a processor operatively coupled to said-the memory, said-the processor configured to:

compute a variance of the symbolic values of the plurality of items relative to for-each of said-the items; and

select the at least one mean item having a symbolic value that minimizes said-the variance-as-the-mean-symbolic-value.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently amended) The system of claim 14, wherein said-the processor is further configured to assign a label to said-the plurality of items using at least one symbolic value from said-the selected at least one mean item.

17. (Currently amended) The system of claim 14, wherein said-the plurality of items are a cluster including-of similar items.

18. (Currently amended) The system of claim 14, wherein said step of computing a variance is performed as follows by:

determining $\text{Var}(J) = \sum_{i \in J} (x_i - \bar{x}_J)^2$ for each item x_i ,

where J is a cluster of items from the same class, x_i is the symbolic value of each item, i , and \bar{x}_J is the symbolic value of each item, J , and

selecting the at least one mean item(s) in said plurality of items, J , such that it has symbolic value \bar{x}_J that minimizes said the $\text{Var}(J)$.

19. (Currently amended) An article of manufacture for identifying one or more mean items for a plurality of items, J , each of said the items having at least one symbolic attribute, each of said symbolic attributes having at least one possible a symbolic value, comprising:

a computer readable medium having computer readable code means embodied thereon, said the computer readable program code means comprising:

a step to compute a variance of the symbolic values of the plurality of items relative to the symbolic value of for each of said the items; and

a step to select at least one item that has the symbolic value that minimizes said the variance as the mean symbolic value.

20. (Currently amended) A system for identifying one or more mean items for a plurality of items, J , each of said the items having at least one symbolic attribute, each of said symbolic attributes having at least one possible a symbolic value, said system comprising:

means for computing a variance of the symbolic values of the plurality of items relative to the symbolic value of for each of said the items; and

means for selecting at least one item that has the symbolic value that minimizes said the variance as the mean symbolic value.

21. (New) The method of claim 1, including:

computing a plurality of other variances of other symbolic values of a plurality of other symbolic attributes of the plurality of items relative to each other symbolic value of each of the items; and

selecting a plurality of other mean items, each other mean item having the other symbolic value that minimizes each other variance.

22. (New) The method of claim 21, including

characterizing the plurality of items using the symbolic value of the at least one mean item and the other symbolic values of the plurality of other mean items.

23. (New) The method of claim 9, including:

computing a plurality of other variances of other symbolic values of a plurality of other symbolic attributes of the plurality of items relative to each other symbolic value of each of the items; and

selecting a plurality of other symbolic values that minimize each other variance as a plurality of other mean symbolic values that characterize the plurality of other symbolic attributes of the plurality of items.